THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) Planning Commission finalises the Annual Plan for Ministry of Coal, which decides the sector-wise supply plan, including coal supplies to power utilities. As per the Annual Plan 2009-2010 which is under finalization, Coal India Limited (CIL) is expected to supply 312 million tonnes to Power Utilities, as against the projected demand of 318 million tonnes on CIL. Thus, there is a gap of 6 million tonnes, which is likely to be met through imports.

(b) No, Sir. There is no acute shortage of coal for supply to power utilities. Against the demand of 373 million tonnes including 8 million tonnes for stock building during 2008-09 for power utilities, assessed by the Planning Commission, indigenous availability was planned at 336.69 million tonnes, resulting in gap of 36.31 million tonnes which was envisaged to be met through imports. CIL has supplied 242.87 million tonnes during April, 2008 to January, 2009 (provisional), as against Annual Plan target of 239.94 million tonnes. However, the power utilities did not import as per targets fixed by Ministry of Power, resulting in lesser availability than anticipated. However, the power generation during April, 2008 to January, 2009 was 393.906 billion units as compared to 372.156 billion units during corresponding period of last year, showing a growth of about 5.8%

(c) Government does not import coal. However, various consumers including power sector imported 49.79 million tonnes of coal during 2007-08.

Demand of coal

1015. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Ltd. is importing coal this year because of its inability to meet industry demand, in spite of India having the fourth largest coal reserves in the world;

(b) if so, how the projected 731 million tones demand of coal by 2012 would be met with the domestic coal production being estimated at 680 million tones by 2012; and

(c) whether Government is thinking of improving domestic production by deregulating coal and involving private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (c) The Working Group on Coal and Lignite for Eleventh Plan, constituted by Planning Commission has assessed the demand for coal by 2012 to be 731 MT as against the estimated indigenous coal production of 680 Million Tonnes. The demand-supply gap of about 51 MT would need to be met from imports. Further, increase in production from captive blocks would also contribute towards bridging this gap.

Although India is having fourth largest coal resources in the world as of now at 264 billion tonnes, it is to be noted that only about 25 per cent of this is extractable. Further, coal reserves occur as horizontal deposits which are to be extracted in a sequential manner starting from the top

horizon. As such, whatever is available for extraction also can not be extracted at a time and the reserves are to be extracted in a sequential manner which takes time.

During the current year, a gap of about 36 MT was envisaged for power utilities which was to be met through imports. Power utilities have, however imported only 64% of the target. CIL has supplied more coal than the agreed target so far. However, in order to supplement the requirement of power utilities, CIL has tied up with M/s. MMTC for import of 4 MT of coal. Efforts are on to work out a detailed system for this supply of imported coal.

Besides, with a view to boosting domestic production, the Central Government has decided to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 to allow Indian companies, both in public and private sector, to mine coal in the country without the existing restriction of captive mining and to be engaged in exploration of coal in the country. Accordingly a Bill, namely, the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Amendment Bill, 2000 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 24.02.2000 and is pending for consideration.

Underground mining of coal

1016. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of underground mining projects that have come up since nationalization of coal mines in 1973, State-wise and what is the future programme of Government with regard to underground mining;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to underground mining only 30 per cent of coal could be extracted and the remaining 70 per cent cannot be extracted;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry is planning to adopt any new techniques or technologies to extract the maximum coal from the coal reserves in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) The state wise details of 264 underground (UG) mining projects taken up for implementation since nationalisation of coal mines in 1973 are as below:—

Sl. No.	State	Subsidiary	No. of projects	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	West Bengal	Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	38	39
		Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)	1	
2.	Jharkhand	Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	2	43
		Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)	24	
		Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)	17	
3.	Orissa	Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)	9	9